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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/ Satellites

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SUBJECT Austrian Commercial Attachés to be Sent to  
Satellite Countries

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

[REDACTED]

1. 25X1A [REDACTED], all representatives of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, the so-called "Aussenhandelsstellenleiter", stationed in the capitals of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria, will be recalled shortly and replaced with career diplomats drawn from the WIPO (Wirtschaftspolitische Abteilung) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria. The outgoing representatives requested diplomatic status from the Foreign Ministry, and since their request was not granted by Minister Gruber, they decided to come home. The only exception is the present representative of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce in Prague. He will become an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the rank of a "Legationssekretär". He will then perform the duties of a commercial attaché at the Austrian Legation in Prague.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] it was at a meeting of the Austrian Council of Ministers which took place on or about 23 May 1950 that it was decided that the Austrian Foreign Office would send commercial attachés to Sofia, Belgrade, Bucharest, Budapest, and Warsaw.

3. 25X1A Although the commercial attachés have as yet not been appointed, [REDACTED] Karl Denk will be sent to Belgrade and Franz Schlechta will take up his post in Budapest. [REDACTED] that these men will be sent abroad before 1 July 1950. 25X1A

4. 25X1A These commercial attachés will be assigned to the Austrian political representatives and the Austrian Legation in the five Balkan capitals, and their jobs will be to act as a collection agency and funnel in the requests for commercial information which they hope to receive from the various foreign government agencies. [REDACTED] as soon as these commercial attachés have been established in the Balkans, the Austrian Government will request the Balkan countries to forward their commercial correspondence with Austria through these commercial attachés. It is also hoped that in this way the Austrian Government will be able to request the withdrawal of the many unofficial Balkan commercial representatives active at present in Vienna.

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